

## **Wellington Meeting – May 2013**

*Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.*

Date 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting was held in the Miramar Central School hall. Over 50 were in attendance including 6 of our Australian members.

Friday night saw buffs start to arrive early, eager for the weekend to begin. As the clock struck 6 pm, a hot meal was served and was most welcomed by all. Later our guest speaker, founding member Fred Holloway was introduced. Fred's illustrated talk of his UK film and theatre experience impressed all. Supper was then served and the first 50 lots of the auction started to go under the hammer. The evening then drew to a close.

Saturday morning with the meeting completed, morning tea was served, before it was auction time again. 100 lots were dealt with in record time and after transactions were completed, it was time for lunch.

After lunch, it was all aboard the buff's bus to visit Archives NZ, the Government Archives for a special tour. All enjoyed seeing the film vaults and document storage units along with a room used for preservation work. Then it was back to the theatre with a screening of several films which included *Dogstar*, the last film ever made at the National Film Unit.

Around 4.45 pm everyone gathered in the upstairs lounge of the \$7 million Roxy Cinema before moving into the main theatre to watch some films. After a few old advertisements from the 1970s and the ageless Queen, we saw *The Gasworker* (NFU 1971), *Coal Valley* (NFU 1979) and *Kids and Other People* (NFU 1982). At programs end, we filed out into the Grand Lobby for drinks before moving downstairs for a buffet dinner in the CoCo cafe and bar. Afterward, a walk back to the hall to view a special presentation by Shane Farrow of the New Zealand Film Archive who showed a 50 minute program of some of the rare missing American films found in NZ. The all silent program was accompanied by pianist Gilbert Haisman. A question and answer session followed bring the evening to an end.

Sunday morning we gathered for our visit to Westside Studios when, after morning tea, we toured the facility looking at all the exhibits, props from films and film sets. After lunch, we returned to our base for the official farewells and the draw for the signed placemat.

Later, the stayers arrived at Time Cinema for our evening meal of fish and chips followed by a screening of the English documentary *The Last Projectionist* (2012). Before the start of the documentary, we listened to an 18 minute radio broadcast from the National program about projectionists in New Zealand with comments from Colin Greenslade and Nick Paris. All too soon the evening came to a close on another very enjoyable meeting.